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THE IDENTITY OF TWO UNPLACED NEW WORLD MEGASTIGMINAE (HYMENOPTERA: TORYMIDAE)

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Abstract.—Two previously unplaced taxa of Torymidae are recognized. *Megastigmus mendocinus* Kieffer and Jörgensen 1910 is transferred to the genus *Torymoides* (Torymidae), **new combination,** and is placed as a **new junior subjective synonym** of *Torymoides sulcius* (Walker), one of the most widespread torymid parasitoids of Cecidomyiidae in the New World. *Megastigmus flavipes* Ashmead 1886 is transferred to the genus *Gastrancistrus* (Pteromalidae), **new combination,** and *Gastrancistrus biguttatus* (Girault) 1917 is placed as a **new junior subjective synonym** of *Gastrancistrus flavipes* (Ashmead).

Key Words: *Megastigmus mendocinus, Torymoides mendocinus, Megastigmus flavipes, Gastrancistrus flavipes,* new synonymy

In the course of preparing a world catalog for the subfamily Megastigminae the senior author discovered two species of *Megastigmus* that have eluded positive recognition since their description. *Megastigmus mendocinus* Kieffer and Jörgensen (1910) is the only species (of 168) reported from South America; its type material has never been located. *Megastigmus flavipes* Ashmead (1886) is known only from the holotype, which was fragmented sometime after its description, and all that now remains is a single forewing, a hindleg, and the tibia from another leg. The purpose of this paper is to confirm the identity and correct nomenclature for these two taxa, the latter of which is transferred to the family Pteromalidae.

Torymidae

Torymoides sulcius (Walker)

Callimome sulcius Walker 1839: 64. Holotype female BMNH, examined.

Callimome caburus Walker 1839: 63–64. Holotype male BMNH, examined.

Megastigma cecidomyiae Ashmead 1887: 185–186. Lectotype female USNM, examined.

Lochites auriceps Ashmead 1894: 153. 2 syntype females USNM, examined.

Torymus ventralis Howard 1897: 135. 2 syntype males BMNH (1 syntype), USNM (1 syntype), both examined.

Torymus howardii Dalla Torre 1898: 307. Objective replacement name for *Torymus ventralis* Howard 1897: 135 *nec* Fonscolombe 1832: 286.

Megastigmus fulvus Cameron 1904: 58. Holotype female BMNH, examined.

Megastigmus mendocinus Kieffer and Jörgensen 1910: 410. Female syntypes lost. **New Synonymy.**

Megastigmus mendocinus Kieffer and Jörgensen is the only species of the genus reported from South America. It was col-

lected in Cordillera de Mendoza, Provincia Mendoza, Argentina. No one has been able to locate the type material of Kieffer and Jörgensen (De Santis, personal communication, Gagné 1994) so that judgment about most of their species must be based on original descriptions and an examination of host information, both of which are remarkably good (Grissell 1995). The species was described based on specimens reared from a cecidomyiid gall, *Oligotrophus lyciicola* Kieffer and Jörgensen. Only four of 168 species of Megastigminae are positively associated with Diptera, and of these, only two are known as parasitoids of Cecidomyiidae (Grissell, in press). Therefore the host association alone casts some suspicion on the placement of *mendocinus* in *Megastigmus*.

Within the subfamily Megastigminae, the only species known from South America is *mendocinus*. In the New World *Megastigmus albifrons* Walker is known to occur as far south as Guatemala, all other species being confined to the Nearctic Region. Thus, distribution of known species also argues against the current generic placement.

Kieffer and Jörgensen described the female of *mendocinus* as 1.8 mm in length, which is exceptionally small for species of *Megastigmus*. The body was described as yellow-red, with parts of the thorax metallic green and the dorsum of the abdomen brownish. The stigma was described as being circular. This description readily fits the torymid *Torymoides sulcius* (Walker 1839), which also happens to be the most commonly collected, widespread Neotropical torymid parasitoid associated with cecidomyiids. It might be assumed, based on the otherwise comprehensive and lengthy paper of Kieffer and Jörgensen, that they would, by chance, have described the most common species. In this case we believe they called it *M. mendocinus*. One synonym of *Torymoides sulcius* is *Megastigmus cecidomyiae* Ashmead (1887), a further indication that some species in the two genera might be confused based on the somewhat enlarged stigma of the forewing in *T. sulcius*.

For the above reasons, we place *Megastigmus mendocinus* Kieffer and Jörgensen as a junior subjective synonym of *Torymoides sulcius* (Walker). The remaining synonyms listed above were explained in Grissell (1995).

The known distribution of this species now encompasses Florida and Texas (Peck 1951) south to Mexico, Grenada, St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Montserrat, Nicaragua, Peru, Argentina, and Brazil (De Santis 1978, 1979).

Pteromalidae

Gastrancistrus flavipes (Ashmead), **new combination**

Megastigmus flavipes Ashmead 1886: 128 (*nec* Ashmead 1888). Holotype male, Florida USNM, examined.

Miscogaster biguttata Girault 1917: 97. 4 male syntypes, [Florida] USNM, examined. **New synonymy.**

Megastigmus flavipes was discussed by Milliron (1949) who placed it as an unrecognized species in his revision of Nearctic species. Even in 1949 all that remained of the single known specimen (the holotype) was a wing and hind leg. Milliron (1949) commented that, based on the original description, the species might not be a *Megastigmus*, but based on the distinctive stigmal vein it might be a megastigmine torymid.

The stigmal vein of *M. flavipes* is enlarged and distinctive enough so that when initially examined by the senior author, it was apparent that the species might be placed in the pteromalid genus *Gastrancistrus*. The junior author has been working on a revision of that genus, and based on the type locality (Jacksonville, Florida) and enlarged stigma, the fragmentary wing and leg was readily associated with a series of specimens of *Gastrancistrus* described from that same locality by Girault (1917). The pale tibia and the restriction of the darker coloration on the wing to the stigmal

vein and its immediate vicinity is the same as that found in *Miscogaster biguttata* Girault, which was transferred to *Gastrancistrus* by Heydon and Bouček (1992: 476). *Gastrancistrus biguttatus* (Girault) is the earlier name and is here placed as a junior subjective synonym of *flavipes* (Ashmead) which is transferred from *Megastigmus* as a new combination in the genus *Gastrancistrus.*

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